ever, in case of surplus cane availability, State Governments can allow movement of cane from one area of the State to another. The percentage utilization of sugarcane by sugar factories has been fluctuating year to year and depends on various factors like sugarcane production, prices of alternative sweeteners etc. and variation in capacity utilisation cannot be quantified separately for each cause.

(d) Government has been taking various measures to augment indigenous sugar production. Some of the measures adopted are given below :

(1) Statutory minimum price of sugarcane for 1989-90 season has been fixed at Rs. 22.00 per quintal, linked to a recovery of 8.5% with proportionate premium for nigher recoveries. For 1988-89 the price was Rs. 19.50 per quintal.

(2) For 1990-91, a still higher price of Rs. 23.00 per quintal, linked to a recovery of 8.5% has been announced.

(3) Additional freesale quota of sugar was allowed to sugar mills on excess production during the period 1st October 1989 to 15th November, 1989. Under this scheme, free sale quota on excess production during the period 1st October to 15th November 1989, over the average production achieved by the sugar mill during the corresponding period in the preceding three years was allowed at 80% as against normal freesale entitlement of 55%.

(4) Licensing of new capacity commensurate with the internal requirement of sugar is being allowed.

(5) Financial assistance on easy terms is being granted to sugar mills out of the Sugar Development Fund for development of sugarcane in their areas of operation and also for modernisation of the units.

(6) The ratio of levy : freesale has been changed in the last few years to improve the economic viability of the sugar industry In 1984-85 the levy : freesale ratio was 65:35. In 1985-86 it was changed to 55:45 in 1986-87 to 50:50 and in 1988-89 to 45:55.

(7) It has been decided to give higher freesale quota @80% instead of noumal 55% on sugar produced during the period 1st May 1990 to 31st July 1990 which is in excess of the production during the corresponding period of last season.

(8) Further higher free sale quota would also be allowed for the sugar production during the period 16-11-1989 to 30-4-1990 out of the sugarcane transported by sugar mills from areas outside their reseved areas under orders from the State Government, subject to limit of excess production during the pesiod over the production achieved during the corresponding period in the last season.

Increase in capacity of fertilizer plants

458. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposals pending for Government's decision for increasing the existing capacity of the fertilizer units in the country ;

(b) what is the period of pendency of these projects and what are the reasons for delay in taking a decision thereon ;

(c) what is the estimated cost likely to escalate due to the delay in finalising the projects ; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to expedite the proposals ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI

LAL) : (a) (b) and (d) Details of the proposals for increasing the existing capacity of the fertilizer units are given below:—

S. No.	Name of the Company/Unit	Cost (Rs.in crore)	Main features of the proposal
1	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Limited (*i*) Durgapur (*ii*) Barauni-I (*iii*) Namrup-I (*iv*) Namrup-II	486·39	The proposals to revamp the units was received in April, 1988 to achieve 100% capacity utilisation from the existing level of about 38%. The proposal is under examination.
2	Fertilizer Corporation of India		
	(*i*) Gorakhpur	66·65	The proposal is to revamp and technologically upgrade the plant in order to increase production of urea from 1,82,788 to 2,15,520 tonnes per annum, reduce pollution level and energy consumption. It was received in January, 1986 and is at an advanced stage of consideration.
	(*ii*) Ramagundam	182·31	The proposal for rehabilitation of the unit by replacement of defective equipment and providing captive power unit seeks to increase the production of urea from 1,62,000 tonnes to 2,97,000 tonnes per annum. The proposal was received in September, 1988 and is at an advanced stage of consideration.
3	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited.		
	(*i*) Udyogmandal	340·14	The proposal for replacement of the old existing ammonia plants of 340 TPD by a new 900 TPD plant was received in January, 1989. The detailed project report is required to be revised and updated by management.
	(*ii*) Cochin (Phase-II) Expansion.	117·65	The proposal for debottle-necking/retrofitting of phosphoric acid plant and NP plant and balancing of sulphuric acid capacity to increase the production of complex fertilizers is being processed for first stage clearance.
4	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited.		
	(*i*) Phulphur, Kandla, and Kalol	114·41	The proposal for revamping of the units to maintain production of 19,36,000 tonnes of fertilizers per annum for the next 10–15 years, stricter pollution control and safety standards was received in September, 1986 and is now under implementation.
	(*ii*) Aonla	607·40	The proposal to double the existing capacity of urea production from 2200 tonnes to 4400 tonnes per day was received in February, 1988 and is at an advanced stage of consideration.

(c) Escalation in costs will depend on various factors such as inflation, exchange rate variation, incidence of duties, taxes etc.